

He earned a law degree from the University of Dam-

Israel row over Sharon goes into overtime

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's cabinet put off until Sunday a decision on whether to make room in its ranks for former general Ariel Sharon, whose hardline policies have angered Arabs and Israel's main ally the United States.

Cabinet Secretary Danny Naveh said no action was taken at a meeting on Friday. But political sources said they expected a decision on Sunday to make the 68-year-old Mr. Sharon head of a new and powerful ministry of infrastructure.

Israel radio ascribed the delay to problems with one of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's ultra-orthodox coalition partners. Rabbi Meir Porush of United Torah Judaism, who controls the housing ministry, had said his party did not want to

cede certain powers to Mr. Sharon.

Israeli newspapers said the new ministry would be the third largest after defence and education with a \$2 billion budget.

If the Likud-led cabinet of right-wing and religious ministers should act on Sunday, Mr. Netanyahu would still have time to squeeze the burly Sharon into the government before leaving on Monday for his inaugural visit to the United States.

Foreign Minister David Levy forced the issue by threatening publicly to quit the cabinet unless Mr. Netanyahu made room for Mr. Sharon. Mr. Levy's political ally, before the U.S. trip.

An official in the prime minister's office said Mr. Netanyahu had summoned ministers in his security

cabinet to a discussion on the planned pullout from Hebron, the last of seven West Bank cities due to be handed over to Palestinian self-rule.

The official declined to confirm a report by Israel's Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper that Mr. Netanyahu would decide before leaving whether to go ahead with the redeployment.

A cabinet minister in previous Likud governments, Mr. Sharon frequently clashed with Washington over his hardline policies.

As defence minister, Mr. Sharon oversaw Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon. He was forced out of the job a year later after an Israeli inquiry found him indirectly responsible for the massacre by Christian militiamen of hundreds of Palestinians in two Beirut refugee camps surrounded

by Israeli soldiers.

In the early 1990s, he led a Jewish settlement drive in the occupied West Bank. The United States called the outposts obstacles to peace and held up \$10 million in loan guarantees over the issue.

Mr. Netanyahu, eager to portray himself as a peacemaker despite his opposition to giving up occupied lands, snubbed Mr. Sharon for a senior cabinet post in the weeks of coalition-building following the May 29 election.

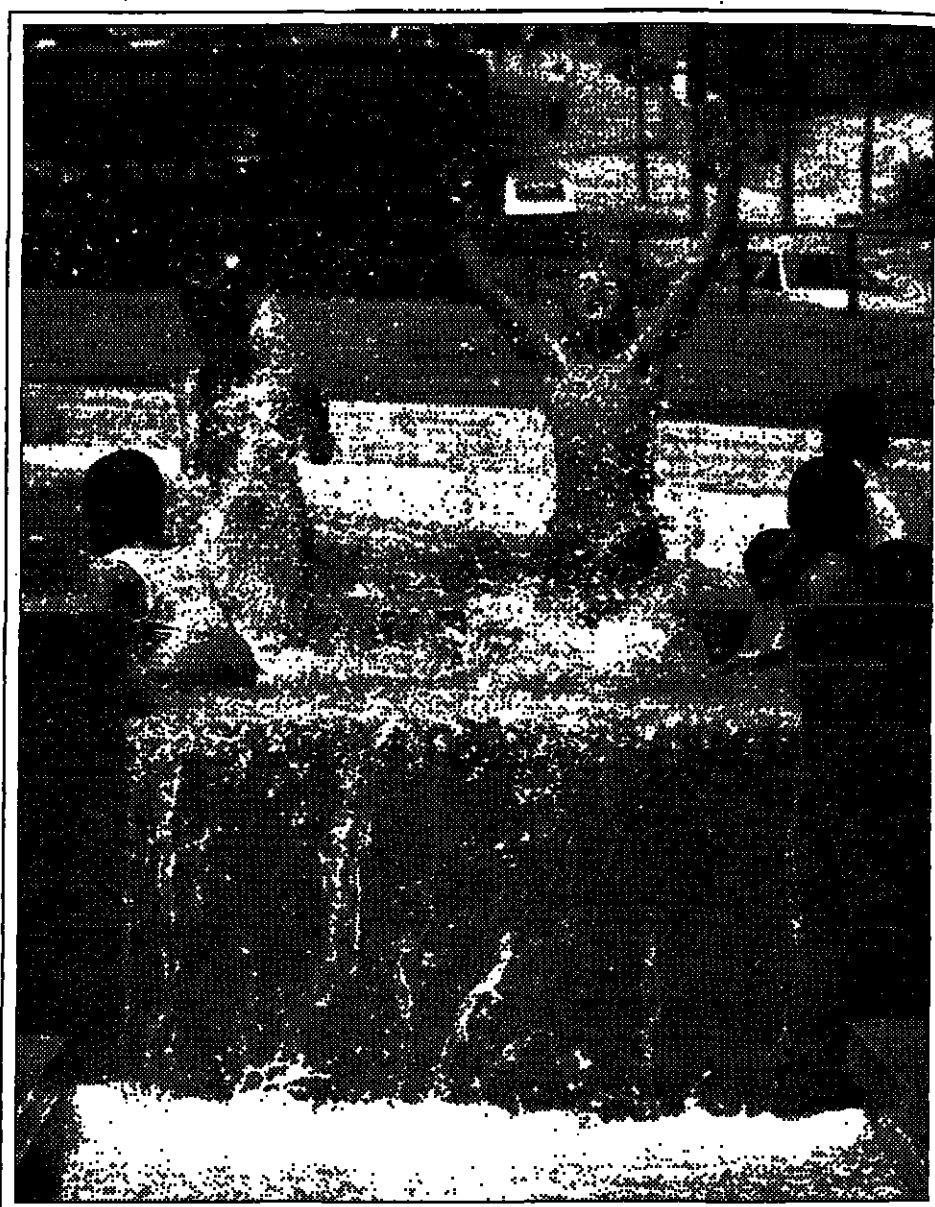
Mr. Netanyahu has in the past called Mr. Sharon "a permanent subversive". But Mr. Sharon was instrumental in getting Mr. Netanyahu elected by persuading Mr. Levy to forge an alliance with the Likud leader rather than run against him.

Hundreds of Mr. Sharon

supporters, including Likud mayors and Jewish settler leaders, held a rally late on Thursday at a hotel near Tel Aviv to urge Mr. Netanyahu to appoint him to the cabinet.

"It will not be a true Likud government until Arik is in," said one supporter, using Mr. Sharon's nickname, in remarks broadcast by Israel radio. Mr. Sharon did not attend the rally.

Mr. Netanyahu's office said the new ministry would include the energy ministry, the lands administration, the road building authority, the train authority, village building, the water commission, the national sewage authority, roads bypassing Palestinian areas in the West Bank, the mining authority and the Negev and Galilee development authorities.



ARAB BOYS PLAY IN JERUSALEM FOUNTAIN: Arab boys find relief from the midday heat by playing in a water fountain near the Old City Thursday. Temperatures in the holy city reached at least 38 degrees Celsius on the third day of a heat wave which some Jerusalemites say is the worst in 20 years (Reuters photo)

Israeli hardliner puts U.S. relations to the test

TEL AVIV (R) — Hardliner Benjamin Netanyahu visits Washington next week for the first time as Israel's prime minister.

He won the job, no thanks to Bill Clinton.

In word and deed the U.S. president threw his support behind Shimon Peres, the loser in Israel's May 29 election whose Middle East peace policy made the White House smile.

Now the question is: Can "Bibi" Netanyahu and Mr. Clinton work together for Arab-Israeli peace despite opposing views on how to resolve the conflict?

Longstanding U.S. policy is at odds with Mr. Netanyahu's vow to boost Jewish settlement of occupied Arab lands and his refusal to swap land-for-peace. Though rhetoric aimed at Israel's Arab neighbours could also stir tensions, U.S. Ambassador to Israel Martin Indyk cautioned this week against treating Syria as "a rogue state."

Once before, Mr. Netanyahu's mouth got him in trouble with the United States. As deputy foreign minister in 1990 he said U.S. Middle East policies were based on "distortions and lies."

Then Secretary of State James Baker banned him from the State Department, later explaining: "His language was unacceptable for a senior diplomat from a friendly country."

Now that Washington's closest Middle East ally has swung to the right, Mr. Clinton faces a challenge convincing the Arabs he wants to play the "honest broker" in Middle East peace moves that are the cornerstone of his foreign policy record.

The timing of Mr. Netanyahu's victory so close to

the U.S. presidential election in November may force Mr. Clinton to shun a confrontation with Israel.

He may want to avoid pressuring Israel and risk losing Jewish voters to Bob Dole, whose mid-campaign congressional gesture to move the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to occupied Jerusalem won favour with Mr. Netanyahu.

Next week, after meeting Mr. Clinton in Washington, Mr. Netanyahu will meet both U.S. Jewish leaders and Mr. Dole in New York.

So far Mr. Clinton, 49, and Mr. Netanyahu, 46, have played down their differences.

Mr. Clinton offered a partnership in the search for peace. Mr. Netanyahu for his part brushed aside questions about Mr. Clinton's barely disguised support for Mr. Peres, saying, "I am not without feelings but I am not a man who deals in keeping accounts. I do not bear a grudge."

Israeli newspapers have played up similarities — that both men leaped over more seasoned politicians while battling questions of marital infidelity to land their nations' top jobs.

They have a language in common. Educated in the United States in business and architecture, Mr. Netanyahu is an admirer of American ways who speaks fluent English and, like Mr. Clinton, is a master of U.S.-style politics in the television age.

They will speak of shared democratic values, a friendship that transcends temporary problems and a desire to battle "international terrorism," especially following an explosion in Dhabran in Saudi Arabia that killed Americans.

Good management of Israel's relations with Wash-

ington ranks high on any prime minister's agenda. Mr. Netanyahu lists it as an Israeli priority alongside his words of "peace and security."

And with good reason — Israel receives more U.S. economic and military aid than any other country. \$3 billion a year. Mr. Netanyahu has said he hopes to wean Israel off the \$1.2 billion economic component during the eight years he hopes to rule the Jewish state.

It remains to be seen whether U.S.-Israeli relations will ever again dip to the record low point they reached before the last Likud government and the Republican administration of President George Bush.

Mr. Baker wrote in his memoirs that a U.S. row with Israel over a Jewish settlement boom contributed to the downfall in 1992 of Yitzhak Rabin, the last Likud prime minister. The architect of the settlement boom, then-Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, will likely elbow his way into Mr. Netanyahu's cabinet, angering the Arabs and worrying Washington.

Against that background, Likud lost the battle for U.S. affection during the most recent Israeli election campaign.

Now, Mr. Netanyahu is trying to emphasise the good ties he insists Likud has had with Washington. On Wednesday he said reports of chilly relations with Secretary of State Warren Christopher were "dead wrong."

In any event Mr. Netanyahu clearly intends to outlast Mr. Clinton by winning a second four-year term. "I will work well with President Clinton and also with the next president of the United States," he told the Israeli newspaper Maariv, "whoever that may be."

Israel PM faces identity crisis

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's new Prime Minister Benjamin "Bibi" Netanyahu, still red-faced because of a nanny scandal, is now being forced to defend not only his character but also his identity.

The question echoed across Israel's marbled parliament chamber this week as opposition leaders demanded to know why a U.S. government file allegedly showed that Mr. Netanyahu's social security number was shared by another two people.

An Israeli newspaper investigation aroused the concern when it said it unearthed a file that showed that Mr. Netanyahu's number was shared by a man named John J. Sullivan and his son John J. Sullivan Jr.

The number, which Americans use for tax and other financial identification, was also linked with the name that the U.S.-raised and educated Mr. Netanyahu used when he lived in America — Benjamin Netanyahu.

The appearance of the two

Sullivans in Mr. Netanyahu's file whirled up a storm of speculation about Bibi's past just days after Mr. Netanyahu, Israel's youngest prime minister, faced a controversy when his wife sacked their nanny for burning soup.

The Israeli newspaper Haaretz did not say how it found the file.

Mr. Netanyahu's spokesman Shai Bazak came to his boss's defence on Thursday, pinning the problem on bureaucratic error and telling Israel Radio: "The prime minister has nothing to hide."

John J. Sullivan, father of John Jr. — both of whom allegedly have the same social security number as Mr. Netanyahu — denied any link to the prime minister. "I am an American citizen, alive and well, and I have no connection to the Israeli prime minister," the newspaper Maariv quoted Mr. Sullivan as saying.

But Mr. Sullivan, fearing credit card fraud, refused to disclose his social security number to Israeli reporters.

Jenin hit by water crisis

JENIN, West Bank (AFP) — Palestinians in the autonomous West Bank town of Jenin said Friday they were suffering a severe water shortage caused by Israel's failure to provide them with promised supplies.

Six thousand inhabitants with running supplies get only several hours of water for at most three days a week, Jenin's mayor Walid Abu Mueiss told AFP. "Jenin is thirsty," he complained. "Water is our number one problem."

Although the town has been under Palestinian rule for nine

months, Israel still controls water resources on the West Bank.

As well as a faulty distribution system which the municipality cannot afford to repair, "the Israelis do not provide us with the agreed quantity," Mr. Mueiss said. "The Israelis pump us 80 cubic metres an hour whereas the town's needs are 330 cubic metres." He said Israel pledged in the autonomy accord with the Palestinian National Authority to provide the town with 1.4 million cubic metres of water a year.

The mayor also complained that the 13 Jewish settlements around the town took preference over the Palestinian inhabitants when it came to water supplies. A Jenin lawyer, Zuhair Arar, said: "To resolve this problem our political officials must intervene with the Israeli government to secure an increase in supplies."

In the meantime, residents are resorting to supplies from agricultural wells or buying them from water tankers, making a profit out of the shortages.

Indyk: Syria shouldn't be treated as a rogue state

From the Jerusalem Post

IT WOULD be a mistake to treat Syria as an outlaw state, as this could become a self-fulfilling prophecy and risk creating a "new axis of the rogue states across the region" — Iran, Iraq and Libya, U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk has said.

"What distinguishes Syria from the rogue states of Iraq, Iran and Libya," Mr. Indyk said, "is that Syria has been engaged in direct negotiations with Israel for the purposes of trying to achieve peace, whereas Iran has made it very clear that it is opposed to the peace process."

"This is a distinction that we believe is worth maintaining,

and I think the prime minister does too, as he said he is interested in negotiating with Syria."

"If you treat Syria as a rogue state, we run the risk of polarising the region and creating a new axis of the rogue states across the region. Unless Syria decides that it wants to go that way, I cannot believe it is in the U.S. interest to encourage it. As long as Syria is prepared to negotiate peace based on (U.N. Security Council resolutions) 242 and 338, it is important, not only for the sake of achieving real and lasting secure peace with Israel, but in terms of our strategic interest in the region."

In interviews last week, Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu likened Syria to a terrorist state, but he distanced himself from comments he made during the election campaign calling on the U.S. to impose sanctions on Syria, as it has on Iraq, Iran and Libya.

When asked about charges that Damascus is cynically playing a double game by negotiating with Israel, but also supporting terror groups, Mr. Indyk noted that Syria remains on the State Department list of countries supporting terror and this hurts the U.S.-Syrian relationship. But, he said, "it is worthwhile to resolve this problem through talking to them, engaging them, and explaining to them why it does not serve their interests, as well as not serving

the interests of peace or achieving a peace agreement."

He cautioned against reading too much into the strident language of the state-owned Syrian media, which since Mr. Netanyahu's election has warned about the prospects of war and compared the new premier to Adolf Hitler.

Mr. Indyk denied the U.S. has shifted its land-for-peace policy, even though Secretary of State Christopher said that Resolution 242 is a "generality."

"We have not changed our positions," he said. "Just because there is a new government here, we don't suddenly wake up the next day and say that everything we believed for the past three decades is going to change. Our own position is that for peace agreements to be concluded, there has to be a territorial component to those agreements. This is the basis of resolutions 242 and 338 and Madrid, where the previous Likud government began the peace process."

"It is still our principle. We also have another principle that is accepted by all the parties, that the issues have to be resolved in direct negotiations between them."

Prime Minister Abdul Karim M. Ghani Thursday address a press (Petra photo)

King: Join help Yem

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday received Yemeni Prime Minister Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani and an accompanying ministerial delegation with whom he reviewed bilateral relations. At the meeting, which took place at the Royal Palace in Amman and was attended by Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kubarin, King Hussein reiterated that Jordan is ready to provide Yemen with the necessary assistance required, and said that the articles of the agreement concluded between the Kingdom and Yemen on Thursday should be put into action quickly to benefit the people of both nations. King Hussein and the visiting Yemeni team also reviewed Jordan's role in the Arab-Israeli peace process and current devel-

Jordan, Qata

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Qatari committee, established in 1980 to promote bilateral cooperation in several areas of development, Friday announced the formation of three major committees: two will be charged with specific fields of work, the third will be responsible for drafting the recommendations of the two working panels.

Heatwave s

AMMAN (Petra) — Meteorologists continue to be above their season's average, with temperatures below the scorching heat wave of 41° C in Amman.

People awoke Friday to somewhat cooler temperatures, but a bit of rain was forecast. Meteorologists said the last time Jordan experienced such a high temperature was during the first week of July in 1953, when temperatures reached 42.4° C in Amman and 41° C in Irbid.

WHAT'S

PLAYS

* Tunisian play entitled "The (sic) at the Royal Cultural

* Ceramics and paintings by Sharaf at the Royal Cultural

* White and black paintings by Sharaf at the Royal Cultural

* "Histoires d'Amman" at the Royal Cultural

* Ceramics exhibition at the Centre off Wadi Sagrak

* Abstract (plastic) art by Sharaf at the Royal Cultural

* Abstract (plastic) art by Sharaf at the Royal Cultural

JORDAN TELEVISION

TEL 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:00Moomin
15:30Tennis Wimbledon (ladies singles final)
17:00News flash
17:02Sciences Cartoon
17:15 Document — La Vie
17:30 Game Show — Que Le
18:00Serie — Chateau Valion
19:00Le Journal
19:15 Magazine — Faut Pas
19:30New headlines
19:35Album Show
20:20Miami Vice
21:00 Special programme on the occasion of the International Day of Cooperation — "Waging Peace: Nicaragua, El Salvador"
21:30Prison
22:00News in English
22:25 The Bold and the Beautiful
23:10 Feature Film — "Rayan's Daughter" (pt. II)

PRAYER TIMES

03:56Fajr
05:30Sunrise/Duha
12:40Dhuhr
16:21Asr
19:50Maghreb
21:24Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swireh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440 De la Salle Church Tel. 661656 Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366 Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541 Anglican Church Tel. 652826 Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331 Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261 St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751 Amman International Church Tel. 652526 Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328 German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457 The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932 Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691 The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295 English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190	Jordan Valley25/40 Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 34, Aqaba 41 Humidity readings: Amman 30 per cent, Aqaba 25 per cent.	Civil Defence Emergency199 Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777 Fire Brigade617101 Blood Bank775121 Highway Police843402 Traffic Police896390 Public Security Department630321 Hotel Complaints605800 Price Complaints661176 Water and Sewerage Complaints897467 Amman Municipality Complaints787111 Telephone Information (directory assistance)121 Overseas Calls010230 Central Amman Telephone Repairs623101 Abdali Telephone Repairs661101 Jordan Television773111 Radio Jordan774111 Water Authority680100 Jordan Electricity Authority815615 Electric Power Company636381 RJ Flight Information 08-53200 Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200	642441/2 Jabal Amman Maternity 642362 Mafkas, J. Amman636140 Palestine Shmeisani607071 Shmeisani Hospital669131 University Hospital845845 Al-Muasher Hospital. 667227/9 The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37 Al-Ahli, Abdali664164/6 Italian, Al-Muhajreen777101/3 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafish775111/26 Army, Marka891611/15 Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50 Amal Hospital674155 The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery865199 ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital09983323 Zarqa National Hospital09900560 Ibn Sina Hospital09986732 Al Hikam Modern Hospital09990990 IRBID: Princess Basma Hospital02125555 Greek Catholic Hospital02127275 Ibn Al Nafees Hospital021247100 AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital03134111	This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights is obtained on telephone (08) 52700 or (08) 523250. ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights 08:00Damascus (RJ) 10:20Beirut (RJ) 10:30New Delhi (RJ) 10:30Karachi, Dubai (RJ) 11:00Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ) 11:00Colombo (RJ) 11:15Jeddah (add) (RJ) 15:10Istanbul (RJ) 15:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ) 17:20Cairo (RJ) 19:15London, Berlin (RJ) 20:35Vienna (RJ) 02:20Riyadh (add) (RJ) 02:50Madrid (RJ) 05:30Bangkok (RJ) Other Flights 13:40Muscat, Doha (GF) 15:00Vienna (OS) 19:35Amsterdam (KL) 20:35Cairo (MS) 20:55Damascus, Paris (AF) 21:10Beirut (ME) 21:15London (BA) 22:35Larnaca (CY) 23:55London (KL) 03:00Kuwait (KL) 03:00Rome (AZ) 09:50 Aqaba (QAIA — proceeds to Marka airport at 10:00 a.m.) (RW) DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights 06:15Jeddah (add) (RJ) 06:35Beirut (RJ) 08:00Bangkok (RJ) 09:45Istanbul (RJ) 12:15Vienna (RJ) 12:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ) 12:30Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ) 13:00Geneva, Madrid (RJ) 13:10Paris (RJ) 13:15Brussels, Amsterdam (RJ) 13:15Cairo (RJ) 14:05London (RJ) 21:10Larnaca (RJ) 21:10Riyadh (RJ) 21:20Jeddah (RJ) 21:45Bahrain, Doha (RJ) 22:00Dhabran (add) (RJ) 22:20Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ) Other Flights 08:45Beirut (ME) 14:30Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF) 16:00Vienna (OS) 20:45Kuwait (KL) 21:25Cairo (MS) 23:30Larnaca (CY) 23:55Paris, Damascus (AF) 04:00Amsterdam (KL) 04:00Rome (AZ) 06:40London (KL)
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Royal Wings (RW) Flights

20:30Aqaba (RW)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upperflower price in fils per kg.
Apricot750/80
Apple700/500
Banana600/600
Banana (mukhammar)520/520
Banana (imported)860/600
Cabbage120/80
Carrot140/80
Cauliflower300/220
Cucumber (large)120/80
Cucumber (small)200/120
Eggplant210/150
Garlic650/400
Lemon800/500
Marrow (large)150/100
Marrow (small)240/160
Mulukhiyah130/80
Onion (dry)130/80
Okra250/600
Orange400/300
Peanut480/350
Peach670/400
Pepper (hot)340/220
Pepper (sweet)400/280
Potato300/180
String Bean450/300
Sweet melon280/180
Tomato120/60
Water melon110/70



Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and Yemeni Prime Minister Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani Thursday address a press conference following the conclusion of two-day talks (Petra photo)

King: Jordan ready to help Yemen in all fields

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday received Yemeni Prime Minister Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani and an accompanying ministerial delegation with whom he reviewed bilateral relations.

At the meeting, which took place at the Royal Palace in Amman and was attended by Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, King Hussein reiterated that Jordan is ready to provide Yemen with the necessary expertise required, and said that the articles of the agreements concluded between the Kingdom and Yemen on Thursday should be put into action quickly to benefit the people of both nations.

King Hussein and the visiting Yemeni team also reviewed Jordan's role in the Arab-Israeli peace process and current devel-

opments in the region. King Hussein praised the successful efforts of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak at the Arab summit held in Cairo last month, saying that the gathering went a great distance in clearing the air between the Arab states. Mr. Abdul Ghani said Yemen is appreciative of King Hussein and his pioneering role in safeguarding Arab interests and achieving regional stability and development.

The meeting was attended by HRH Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, the King's military secretary, and Minister of Youth Mohammad Daoudieh.

Attending on the Yemeni side, were the ministers of transport, civil service and administrative reform, health, electricity and water, supply and trade, in addition to minister of

industry.

Mr. Abdul Ghani later Thursday left Jordan, ending the delegation's two-day official visit during which he chaired the Yemeni side to the meetings of the Higher Jordanian-Yemeni Committee which also concluded here on Thursday with the signing of minutes.

In a joint press conference with Mr. Kabariti following the panel meetings and the conclusion of Jordanian-Yemeni agreements, Mr. Abdul Ghani said he was very pleased with the brotherly atmosphere and the outcome of the meetings.

Mr. Kabariti said Jordan is deeply interested in developing its relations with Yemen and providing every possible support to it.

Conference to study economic impact of EU-Mediterranean association agreements

By Chafiz Abu Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The economic impact of the association agreements the European Union (EU) is negotiating with countries of the Mediterranean basin will be among the major topics to be highlighted during a conference entitled "Regional Economic Cooperation in the Mediterranean," which will be held here on July 8-9.

The conference, which is organized by Konrad Adenauer Foundation in cooperation with Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Centre, will discuss issues pertaining to the economic cooperation between the region and the EU with different Arab and European experts offering different perspectives on the different trade and economic challenges and opportunities that will emerge once these agree-

ments go into effect.

Ayman Zeineldin, first secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Egypt, will talk about the challenge to the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation and Tyseer Abdel Jaber, from the Arab Consulting Centre will discuss Jordan's position on economic cooperation in the region and with the EU.

The conference, which will be inaugurated by Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb and attended by deputy head of the institute of international cooperation of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation Wilhelm Hofmeister, will also study the association agreements the EU has signed with some of the Mediterranean countries and assess the experiences of these states in dealing with the EU under these agreements. Olaf Kündagen, president representative of the Kon-

rad Adenauer Foundation for Jordan and Lebanon told the Jordan Times Thursday.

The conference is aimed at creating public awareness of the nature and results expected from agreements between the EU and the Mediterranean countries, Mr. Kündagen said, adding that it is also geared towards helping countries which are in the process of signing similar agreements with the EU to benefit from their neighbours' experiences.

Mr. Kündagen said that eliminating trade and investment barriers in the region will also be a focus of discussion during the conference with experts presenting their countries' experiences in dealing with these matters.

This will be a way to "learn from our successful neighbours' experiences," Mr. Kündagen said.

The conference will also discuss the impact of political dialogue in the Middle East on the economies of the region.

Hüseyin Bağcı, professor at the Middle East Technical University in Ankara, will examine the contribution of Turkey to Political Dialogue in the New Environment in the Middle East.

Senator and former minister of information Jawad Anani will present a paper on "Peace and Economic Prospects," and Khemais Jinaoui from the Foreign Ministry of Tunisia will talk about "The Political Dialogue in the Middle East and its Impact on the Economies of the Region."

At the end of the conference there will be a roundtable discussion on the "Models and Mechanisms of Economic Cooperation and Integration Perspectives for the Middle East."

It will be a high private sector representation at the conference which will also bring together participants from Arab and foreign universities and institutions as well as experts and professors from Palestine and Lebanon who he added can take part in the discussions or serve as observers.

He said that the recommendations and proceedings of the conference will be published and distributed to Arab and foreign parliamentarians as well as to people concerned with issues discussed during the meeting.

Jordan is in the final stage of negotiating an association agreement with the EU which aims to create what would be the world's largest free trade area with countries of the Mediterranean basin by the year 2010.

RSCN delegation leaves for Syria

AMMAN (Petra) — Members of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) Friday left for Syria for talks on enhancing bilateral cooperation in the area of nature conservation.

The delegation includes the head of the Wild Life Reserves, a representative of the World Bank who is currently working on the Dana Wild Life Project and a Dutch expert working on the same project.

They will meet with officials of the Syrian Ministry of Agriculture and visit Qalileh Wild Life Reserve in the Tadmor area. The purpose of that visit came about at the request of the Syrian ministry which asked the Jordanian team to inspect the wildlife there and assess its suitability as a host and breeding site for the Arabian Oryx.

The RSCN had earlier announced that it would donate eight Arabian Oryxes to the Syrian Ministry of Agriculture during a visit last month by a Syrian ministry delegation to the RSCN.

Joint Jordanian-American exercises end

AMMAN (Petra) — Ten days of joint military exercises between the U.S. and Jordan ended Thursday with the final exercise attended by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Abdul Hafiz Marei Kaabneh, Commander of Operations and Training Major General Ghazi Tayeb, Commander of the Royal Jordan Air Force Major General Mohammad Ababaneh, other senior army officers, in addition to U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission in Jordan Robert Beecroft, and heads of military formations. Field Marshal Kaabneh said he was pleased with the level of performance of the Jordanian units which participated and said that such joint exercises are important because they allow for the exchange of expertise between the armed forces of friendly nations and thus help in augmenting the knowledge and skills of Jordan's officers and soldiers in many fields.



U.S. Marines Captain Duke from San Diego gives the thumbs up to his Jordanian counterpart Qusay Hamadan at the end of ten days of joint exercises at Qatraneh 100 km south of Amman. Jordanian and US troops began conducting joint exercises last month codenamed INFINITE MOONLIGHT 96 (Reuters photo)

A Jordanian infantry battalion and a U.S. Marine infantry battalion

were involved in the 10-days of exercises. They were supported by

fighter planes, helicopters, artillery and automatic machine guns.

Jordan, Qatar start bilateral talks

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Qatari committee, established in 1980 to promote bilateral cooperation in several areas of development, Friday announced the formation of three major committees: two will be charged with specific fields of work, the third will be responsible for drafting the recommendations of the two working panels.

The first committee will handle economic, agricultural, energy, transport, telecommunication and labour fields.

The second will involve itself in the spheres of information, tourism, education, health, sports, and youth affairs.

All three committees were asked to prepare the agenda of their planned activities and submit them

to the Higher Jordanian-Qatari Economic Committee, which will meet in Amman soon.

Friday's meeting was presided over by Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Smadi and Director of the Arab Affairs Department at the Qatari Foreign Ministry Seif Muqaddam Bousaiein.

Heatwave subsides

AMMAN (Petra) — Meteorologists said temperatures will continue to be above their seasonal average this week and would range between 36° C and 39° C, several notches below the scorching heat wave of the weekend when thermometers soared to 41° C in Amman and 45° C in Aqaba.

People awoke Friday to somewhat fresher air as temperatures began to climb down a bit to 37° C, which is still, said the meteorologists, 6° above the seasonal average. On Jordan Television, Meteorology Department experts said that the last time Jordan experienced such temperatures was during the first week of July in 1923. They added that temperatures reached 42.4° C in Amman on July 13, 1978, 41.7° C on July 22, 1953 and 41° C on July 19, 1980.

Iran agrees to improve relations

(Continued from page 1)

Bahrain said it would downgrade the level of representation to that of charge d'affaires.

The Gulf archipelago has been rocked by sporadic unrest since December 1994, in which at least 22 people have been killed. The protests have been led by Shiite Muslims demanding the restoration of parliament suspended in 1975.

On another front, Bahrain said Friday it had not been consulted over a decision by Doha to allow Bahraini citizens into Qatar with just an identity card.

Qatar said on Wednesday it would permit Bahraini nationals to enter the country without a passport.

But Bahrain Information Minister Mohammad Ibrahim Al Mutawa rejected the Qatari decision. "Bahrain recognises the passport as the only (valid) travel document and the iden-

tity card, given to nationals and foreigners, is only valid on Bahraini territory.

He said "the decision taken by Doha cannot be put into practice," adding that it was regrettable Qatar "did not consult the Bahraini authorities so as to reach a common agreement on the subject."

Relations between the two Gulf states have been strained for many years over a dispute about the sovereignty of the Hawar islands which almost degenerated into armed conflict in 1986.

Meanwhile, three Bahrainis were sentenced to prison terms of between six months and five years by a state security court for carrying out "acts of sabotage or spreading rumours," officials said Friday.

Mahmoud Abbas Habib and Mohammad Ali Matuq were sent to jail for five years and three years respectively for burning down a car repair workshop and torching two private cars, the source said.

'Turkey preparing to shut down pro-Kurdish party'

(Continued from page 1)

first and foremost, a Turkish party which also has an interest in defending the rights of the Kurds.

Four former Democracy Party members of the previous Turkish parliament meanwhile remain in prison, after being sentenced in December 1994 for alleged links with the PKK.

They include Leyla Zana, last year's winner of the

Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Expression, awarded by the European Parliament.

Pro-Kurdish prisoners in Turkey are among 9,500 inmates in 30-odd prisons involved in hunger strikes over prison conditions which have been underway for more than 45 days — and which have picked up momentum this week.

In six prisons, notably in Ekişehir, Buca and Bursa, 46 detainees who have been

involved in far-left politics in Turkey embarked on a total hunger strike, joining 65 others who did likewise on Wednesday, informed sources said.

Some 8,000 detainees from the PKK have also been involved in the rotating strikes, but have yet to escalate their protest action, sources close to pro-Kurdish circles said.

(Continued from page 1)

"Some members are considering leaving the JPA in order to express their objection to a president who is a 'non-journalist'."

Another journalist said, "Because he is a member of the (AI Dustour) board, I think the issue of the one per cent revenue is debatable."

"I don't think he, as an owner, can use the pressure to get the one per cent for the association," he said.

"Many also do not think he can press the government on the new JPA law," he said.

The government recently announced that it had approved a new draft law to govern the press association, which caused a stir among journalists for what they say is an attempt to "marginalise (the association's) role" in regulating the profession.

Among the more controversial points of the law are an end to obligatory membership to the association for practising journalists, and a new standard for the definition of a journalist

which states that anyone who practices journalism as his main profession could be considered a journalist.

It also allows for employees of Jordan Radio and Television to join the syndicate, which journalists criticise on two counts. This, they say, will help the government secure greater influence on the union, and because the union is a press association, should not be open to electronic media employees.

During an interview with the Jordan Times prior to the elections, Mr. Al Sherif said that he did not see a conflict of interest, and that he would continue to pursue the issue of the advertising revenue, a case now before the court due to newspapers' failure to pay up.

"People have said that I want to be president to take the case from court," he said. "This is absolutely not true. I am not an owner per se — I am a shareholder."

"In the new JPA amendments, we (are proposing) another formula, which is sort of a 'value added tax' or sales tax to be added on

the advertising bill. This, we hope will prevent problems between the papers and the JPA."

Mr. Al Sherif said that he would continue discussing with the government amendments to the JPA law, and said that the definition of a journalist will remain as written in the old law, but that a clause will be added to allow practicing journalists the opportunity to join the syndicate, whose membership is currently tightly controlled.

He also said that he favoured membership of radio and television employees, but that their membership must be restricted to a quota that would include only editorial staff of the two institutions.

In addition to the rivalry between Mr. Mahadin and the government, journalists stood little chance of being elected in light of a gentlemen's agreement between AI Ra'i and AI Dustour during the last JPA elections. In 1994, AI Dustour supported AI Ra'i chief editor Suleiman Qudrah in secur-

ing the last presidency in exchange for AI Ra'i backing for the AI Dustour candidate in this election.

Further to this, said one journalist "it is known that there is a lingering grudge between AI Ra'i management and (Khaled) Mahadin." And this, he said, was an even weightier factor in the AI Ra'i vote than the 1994 agreement.

AI Ra'i and AI Dustour have 60 and 54 members in the association respectively. It is believed that the majority of AI Ra'i voters supported Mr. Al Sherif.

The JPA also voted for a new, nine-member board, which is composed of three seats each assigned to journalists from private sector papers, Jordan News Agency, Petra, and newspaper owners. Its new members from the private sector and Petra are: Iyad Waqfi (AI Ra'i); Khalil Al Shobaki (AI Ra'i); Fouad Hussein (Petra); Amar Shneikat (Petra); and Abdul Majid Abdul Khaled (Petra). The owners fielded only three candidates: Hilmi Al Asmar, Mahasen Al Imam and Fakri Abu Hamdeh.

Security Council extends Iraq sanctions for 60 days

Samerai says Iraq hiding more missiles

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Erbakan, leader of the Islamist Welfare Party, led elections in December on a platform promising closer ties with Muslim nations. He came to power last week in coalition with ex-Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's centre-right party.

Mr. Erbakan softened his opposition to Provide Comfort as soon as he came to power, saying he would consult the Turkish military on the issue. The military has favoured the operation.

Mr. Erbakan has not commented on the embargo recently.

Mr. Ramadan also claimed an oil pipeline between Turkey and Iraq would be operating "within a few days." But the reopening of the pipeline is pending a U.N. approval of a plan for the distribution of food and medicine to be purchased with oil revenues.

that caused severe diarrhea and kill within a few days. The epidemic prompted international organizations to help with epidemics in North Korea. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization said that the epidemic was spreading to other parts of the country. The World Health Organization said that the epidemic was spreading to other parts of the country. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization said that the epidemic was spreading to other parts of the country. The World Health Organization said that the epidemic was spreading to other parts of the country.

Unmarried Belgian prince insists he will be king



Two female National Assembly members from Taiwan's opposition Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) confront a male colleague, Chen Tsun-Hsiung (left) of the ruling Nationalist Party, after Mr. Chen pushed down another DPP member Chen Chin-Teh during an assembly session Friday in Taipei (Reuter photo)

Partisan chaos mars Taiwan National Assembly

TAIPEI (R) — Chaos erupted at Taiwan's National Assembly for a second day Friday as opposition and ruling deputies clashed, punched and gouged each other in hopes of seizing control of the new session.

Ruling Nationalist Party and opposition Democratic Progressive Party deputies battled around the speaker's dais in a prolonged struggle over selection of a session chairman.

"In a democracy, we should count heads, not break heads," lamented former Foreign Minister Fredrick Chien, a Nationalist candidate for speaker of the largely ceremonial assembly.

The assembly had opened on a violent note Thursday, with deputies pushing and kicking to gain control of the body whose chief duty is to debate constitutional amendments.

In the end, the two main parties each elected a rival chairman for the session that is expected to last two months — a stalemate that was expected to continue.

The National Assembly, once a compliant Nationalist Party rubber stamp, has seen its influence wane in the past decade as Taiwan has replaced authoritarianism with democracy. But the assembly remains a potent forum for political expression.

Some deputies came Friday apparently ready for a fight. Nationalist deputy and ex-boxer Chen Tsun-Hsiung, discarding suit-and-tie decorum in favour of a sweat suit, kicked down opposition member Chen Chin-Teh as he tried to speak over the din in front of the podium.

Two opposition women, one in a green headband, rushed to their felled colleague's defence, attacking the former boxer — and triggering a new wave of chaos under a huge solemn portrait of republican China's founding father, Sun Yat-Sen.

The gavel-to-gavel violence has been aired across Taiwan on live television. Disciplinary leaders of both parties have urged members to behave and resolve their differences through negotiations, but their exhortations have proved useless.

Another wave of scuffles erupted Friday when opposition deputies mistook a Nationalist colleague for an intelligence agent and tried to drag him from the meeting hall.

"Ten to 20 people tried to beat me up. Luckily I could still handle the situation," Nationalist Deputy Lin Jen-Teh told state-funded television after being chased around the hall.

To tell allies from adversaries, Democratic Progressive Party members began wearing green armbands while members of the fledgling New Party opted for yellow armbands.

Taiwan's history of violence in the parliament and National Assembly dates to the late 1980s when the ruling Nationalists used their strong majority to dominate meetings.

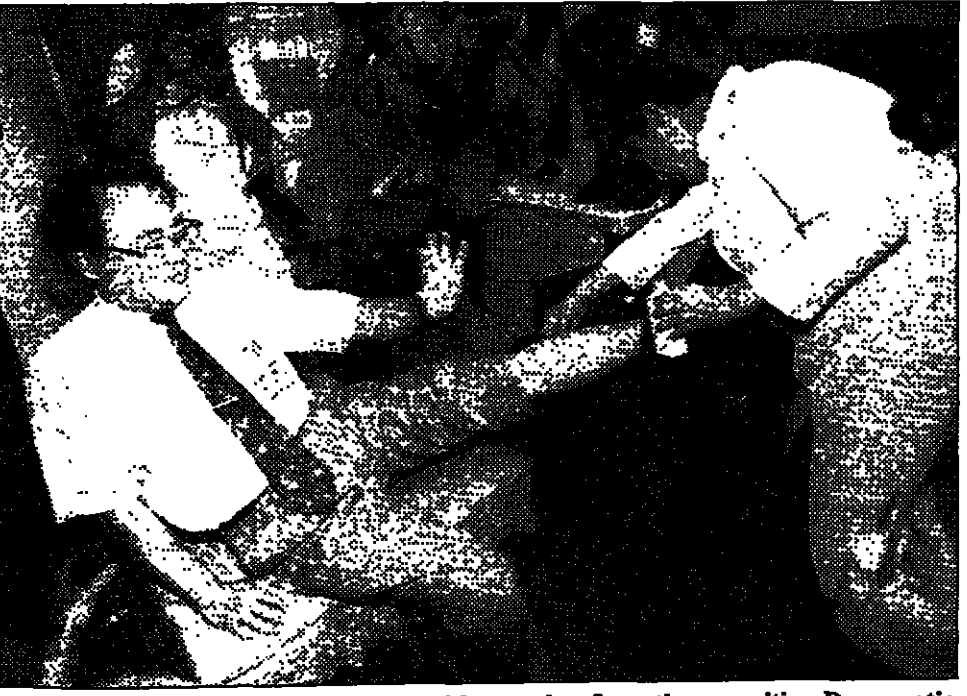
Opposition lawmakers found violence won headlines and seemed to boost popular support in the face of Nationalist dominance.

Violent incidents, described by some opposition members as the best means to end ruling party authoritarianism, have decreased in recent years as opposition candidates have gained more seats in parliament.

The Nationalist Party holds a one-seat majority in the Legislative Yuan, or parliament.

There have been mounting calls to disband the assembly now that Taiwan's democratisation has brought popular elections for the presidency, which had long been appointed by the assembly.

Incumbent Lee Teng-Hui won a landslide victory on March 23 in the first direct presidential election.



Ho Min-Hau, a Taiwan National Assembly member from the opposition Democratic Progressive Party, watches as a physician attends to his foot injured following a scuffle at an assembly session in Taipei Friday. The assembly began a two-month-long stormy session Thursday and chaos continued on the second day over disagreements on meeting procedures (Reuter photo)

Cholera outbreak reported in N. Korea

SEOUL (R) — North Korea has been hit by a cholera outbreak that has infected hundreds of malnourished soldiers and civilians, killing many of them, a South Korean intelligence agency reported Friday.

Seoul health authorities said they were stepping up quarantine inspections at ports in response.

The Agency for National Security Planning quoted ethnic Korean travellers from China as saying the outbreak was centred on the west coast and one northern province.

"Since early June an outbreak of cholera has been reported in North Korea's west coast and northern Yanggang province, infecting hundreds of civilians and soldiers and killing many of them," an agency statement said.

"Malnutrition, which has weakened the health of North Koreans, seems to be the cause of the cholera outbreak."

Pyeongyang had launched vaccination and sterilisation programmes to prevent further spread of the disease that causes dehydration and severe diarrhoea and can kill within hours if not treated promptly.

International relief organisations have warned that epidemics could sweep North Korea unless adequate food aid arrives. Old people and babies are most at risk.

A Health Ministry spokesman said ships and products from North Korea would be more rigorously checked.

"The ministry will also increase the frequency of tests of waters along the west coast and shellfish caught in the yellow sea to prevent the possible outbreak of cholera from spreading to the South," the spokesman said.

"There is a high possibility that cholera could spread further in North Korea, which is facing a rainy season," he added. Cholera is a water-borne disease.

On Thursday the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) said North Korea, struggling to recover from disastrous floods last year which wiped out most of its 1995 rice harvest, faces another grim winter under threat of starvation and disease.

In a report from its representative in Pyongyang, the IFRC said the coming harvest would fall short by an amount that would feed four to five million people. North Korea's population is 23 million.

South Korea, Japan and the United States have together chipped in about \$15 million to the latest U.N. aid appeal for North Korea aimed at raising \$43.6 million.

Analysts said the food crisis may be delaying the enthronement of North Korea's Kim Jong-Il as the Communist world's first hereditary leader.

A cryptic line in an official poem released Thursday gave the strongest hint yet that Mr. Kim would sit out a three-year mourning period following the death of his father Kim Il-Sung before being appointed to the key posts of state president and secretary general of the ruling Workers' Party.

Tajik forces retake key town

DUSHANBE (AFP) — Tajik government forces have recaptured the strategic central town of Tavil-Dara, held for almost two months by pro-Islamic opposition forces, a spokesman for Dushanbe authorities said Friday.

"Tavil-Dara is in the hands of government forces," Zafar Saidov, spokesman for the Tajik presidency, told a press conference in the Tajik capital Dushanbe, adding that fighting in the town had left victims on both sides.

Mr. Saidov said Defence and Interior Ministry forces of the neo-Communist government launched an offensive Monday on the town, situated 200 kilometres (125 miles) east of Dushanbe.

He said some isolated exchanges of fire were continuing in the town.

technological edge is a requirement, not an option," he said. "Our goal must always be strength to guarantee that no one is tempted to threaten us ever again."

Sen. Dole marched in a parade down North Main Street in the picture postcard Chicago suburb of Wheaton, waving to the cheering crowd and shaking hands with supporters. He later attended a backyard picnic in nearby Glen Ellyn, Illinois.

Sen. Dole trails President Bill Clinton in recent polls of Illinois voters, a state with the most electoral votes in the midwest, 22, and a state both the Democratic and Republican camps see as a major battleground in the Nov. 5 election.

The strongly Republican western suburbs of Chicago are the territory of Representative Henry Hyde, a fervent abortion foe and the Republican Party's platform chairman who was angered by Sen. Dole's recent proposal to include a tolerance clause toward those for and against abortion in the platform.

Yeltsin set to name cabinet

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin, secure in the Kremlin for another four years, will name a new government team in the next few days, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin was quoted as saying Friday.

Mr. Yeltsin, who won a resounding victory in Wednesday's presidential runoff, has the formal right to nominate his prime minister only after he is sworn in for a second term in office.

But he has already made clear that Mr. Chernomyrdin, the former gas industry boss viewed in the West as a solid guarantor of Russian economic reforms, will stay in charge.

The election, watched with anxiety around the world, reached a rather anticlimactic end when it became clear soon after the polls closed at 1900 GMT Wednesday that Mr. Yeltsin was headed for victory.

The preliminary count, with almost all ballots in, gives him 53.7 per cent of the votes compared to 40.4 per cent for Communist challenger Gennady Zyuganov.

But almost five per cent of voters — or 3.5 million people — made the effort of showing up at the polls, only to vote against both candidates, a way to register a protest.

"Let us not divide the country into the victorious and the vanquished," a conciliatory Yeltsin said as he thanked voters for their support in a televised address.

Nationalist-minded Zyuganov grudgingly conceded defeat late Thursday and the State Duma lower house of parliament, also dominated by Communists and nationalists, sent Mr. Yeltsin a congratulatory telegram Friday.

Interfax said Parliament Chairman Gennady Seleznyov had wished the president the "wisdom, health and strength" he needed to cope with Russia's problems.

And there are certainly many problems, not least on the economic front where a steep decline in industrial output shows little sign of coming to an end.

Expensive pre-election promises from Mr. Yeltsin in the run-up to the poll risk busting the budget, wrecking plans for Russia to get all the money promised in a big International Monetary Fund loan and sending inflation spiralling up again.

Russian consumer prices rose a monthly 1.2 per cent in June, the lowest level since economic reforms began.

Mr. Yeltsin may also have to take account of the fact that the Communist-led opposition won more than 29 million votes Wednesday, up from 24 million in the first round on June 16.

"We should not lose heart and consider ourselves defeated," the pro-Communist newspaper Sovetskaya Rossiya said Friday. "We are tens of millions who are still ready to work hard to save our country from devastation and enslavement."

Western leaders and Russia's liberal newspapers have already hailed Mr. Yeltsin's win as a victory for democracy, but added the rider — what happens next?

Mr. Yeltsin, who suffered two heart attacks last year, fell ill again in the final days of the second round campaign, although he has been working in his Kremlin office for the last two days.

Interfax said Mr. Yeltsin had arrived in the Kremlin at 8 a.m. And was discussing social problems such as the need for wages and pensions to be paid on time.

Foreign observers said Thursday that the poll was broadly free and fair, although they complained that Mr. Yeltsin had had unfair access to the Russian mass media in a relentless television campaign.

Mr. Zyuganov, conceding defeat, complained of "gross violations" in the way Mr. Yeltsin had exploited the machinery of the state and the mass media. But, putting on a brave face, he said: "We respect the will of the citizens of the Russian Federation."

He even sent Mr. Yeltsin a telegram of congratulations and called for a role for the Communists in the new government.

Both Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Chernomyrdin have indicated they are ready to accept some opposition figures in the new government.

But Mr. Chernomyrdin said Thursday that ministers would be invited as top professionals rather than as representatives of a specific political party.

"It is very possible that they will belong to other parties and movements... but they must leave behind whatever colours they come with. Everything will be one colour. A workmanlike one," he told a news conference.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl congratulated Mr. Yeltsin Thursday on his reelection as Russia's president and said he had no doubt Mr. Yeltsin would keep steering Russia down the path of reform. Germany is easily the biggest provider of financial aid to Russia, and Mr. Kohl, Mr. Yeltsin's staunchest advocate in the West, had made no secret of his desire to see him retain power.

"I have often been criticised because I unreservedly supported this presidency," Mr. Kohl told reporters. "For that reason, I am especially pleased."

Mr. Kohl, who enjoys warm personal relations with Mr. Yeltsin, said he had telephoned the president to congratulate him.

"I told him how many of us, in Germany and elsewhere, hope that he will, step by step, advance reforms to increase the rule of law, expand democratic institutions and carry out the necessary economic reforms for more social stability — and I have no doubt he will do it," he said.

Asked about Mr. Yeltsin's fragile health, Mr. Kohl said: "I spoke to a man who... after dozens of election campaign appearances in the toughest of weather conditions is naturally marked by his election campaign."

Mr. Kohl earlier concluded a congratulatory telegram by wishing "strength, health and success" to "Dear Boris."

East Europe relieved but wary after Yeltsin win

WARSAW (R) — Eastern Europeans greeted the result of Russia's presidential polls with wary relief, tempered by fears over victor Boris Yeltsin's shaky health and his possible need to compromise on reform.

Politicians in states which threw off Soviet domination six years ago generally hailed the defeat of Communist Gennady Zyuganov, but some warned the West not to be complacent over Russia's stability and to hasten NATO's eastward expansion.

"Mr. Yeltsin, although not a model for democracy, represents much more stability than Zyuganov," said Matyas Eorsi, chairman of the Hungarian parliament's Foreign Relations Committee, Bronislaw Geremek.

He said Mr. Yeltsin's debt to Gen. Lebed, his health and the Communist's 40 per cent showing, put the future in question.

"In Russian politics big-power accents may become more pronounced — accents tied to the imperial tradition," he said.

Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski due to meet U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington Monday, as the first leader from the region to do so after the Russian polls, will seek assurance and details on NATO's growth.

Mr. Kwasniewski told reporters Mr. Yeltsin's victory in democratic, fair polls was a good sign for Poland, and discussion on NATO expansion would be freed of election campaigning.

"I think there will now be a greater openness to dialogue," said the ex-Communist now turned Social Democrat.

Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary are in the front rank of prospective new NATO members whose entry process to the Western military alliance is expected to be launched next year.

Czech President Vaclav Havel, in a statement praising Mr. Yeltsin's role in promoting difficult reforms in Russia, said he was sure the process would continue there.

"He also expressed the hope that after Boris Yeltsin's victory... Russia will continue to cooperate closely with the European and world community for the creation of a new world order... founded on mutual trust and respect," the statement said.

Some regional leaders, wary of explicitly backing Mr. Yeltsin before the vote, expressed open satisfaction over his victory.

Bulgaria's President Zhelev said he hoped Mr. Yeltsin's win was a turning of the tide that has returned ex-Communists to power in several former Soviet bloc states. "After the inspiring victory of democratic forces in parliamentary elections in Albania and Mongolia the triumph of democracy in Russia's presidential election is a good sign," he said.

His comments were echoed by Tritan Shehu, leader of the Albanian ruling anti-Communist Democratic Party.

"I hail Yeltsin's victory because it shows that the nostalgia of communism is on the wane," he said.

Romanian President Ion Iliescu's spokesman told Reuters: "Yeltsin's election is a pre-requisite for political and economic reforms in Russia to continue," adding that this would serve Romania's own security, stability and economic ties.

Dole marks July 4 with call for U.S. leadership

WHEATON, Illinois (R) — Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole, marking independence day while campaigning in the midwest, called for the nation to take a stronger international leadership role with a modernised military force.

His remarks on foreign policy marked a shift from a week of campaigning that saw Sen. Dole dogged by domestic issues such as abortion, which has threatened to divide Republicans, and his controversial comments about tobacco that led to his sparring with the media.

"We must remember that the world remains a very dangerous place," Sen. Dole said, adding that the United States faces the threats of "ethnic conflicts, religious extremism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the growing threat of international terrorism."

"The fight against international terrorism can only be won with American leadership, leadership that sets a firm and consistent course," he said.

"Modernising our armed forces is a requirement, not an option. Maintaining our

Clinton hails Yeltsin reelection victory

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio (R) — President Bill Clinton, his own political fortunes tied to Russia's election, Thursday hailed President Boris Yeltsin's win and said it showed that Russians have "turned their back on tyranny."

During Independence Day appearances in Ohio and Maryland, Mr. Clinton welcomed the Yeltsin victory over Communist Gennady Zyuganov as an "historic achievement" in the spread of democratic values.

"With a decisive voice, the Russian people chose democracy," Mr. Clinton said during an outdoor speech in Youngstown, which was marking the 200th anniversary of its founding.

"Yesterday they said 'we want to keep on moving forward. We choose freedom. We choose democracy,'" Mr. Clinton said, noting "we've all got a stake in what happens in other countries that we used to be so far apart from."

White House officials clearly were elated that Mr. Yeltsin, whose political future appeared bleak only six months ago, managed to win a second term despite serious questions about his health.

If Mr. Yeltsin had lost to Mr. Zyuganov, who advocated resurrecting the old Soviet Union, Mr. Clinton would have faced a barrage of political attacks for his handling of relations with the Russian leader — whose reelection he all but publicly endorsed.

"The Russian people have turned their back on tyranny, they are turning the corner toward freedom," he said during a stop at Patuxent Naval Air Station, Maryland. "They and their leaders have cleared another important hurdle in building a new and enduring democracy."

"I want to congratulate President Yeltsin on his reelection. It has a nice ring to it," said a broadly smiling Clinton, who hopes to win his own second term in office in November.

Mr. Clinton, who was expected to talk with Mr. Yeltsin by telephone Friday, said the election's outcome "bodes very good news for the future of the entire world."

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Times, Saturday, July 6, 1996
By Dr. Musa K...
Signal change

Features

Jordan Times, Saturday, July 6, 1996

7

Getting newspapers worldwide and faster — on the Net

By Jim Kelsey

TRADERS IN New York, scientists in Antarctica, bankers in Hong Kong or Tokyo and old English ladies in Wellington are now reading The Times and its Sunday edition just a few hours after the newspapers are printed in London — and before they are even delivered there. And all for the price of a local telephone call.

Now the 211-year-old Times — once known as The Thunder because its editorials had universal influence — has joined other U.K. national papers such as the Daily Telegraph, the Guardian and the Financial Times on the global information superhighway: the Internet (or Net). The Net has 20 million users and is expanding daily at a phenomenal rate.

There is no fee to subscribe to the electronic online newspapers although you need a personal computer (PC), telephone and modem to connect to the global information system. Wherever you are in

Britain, the cost of making a call anywhere in the world to the Net is about the same as the price of a local U.K. call.

Electronic revolution

Users register their name and are given a password that allows them access to the individual U.K. publications. All are currently improving their services in a bid to increase readership, advertising revenue and take full advantage of the publicly accessible Internet — the electronic revolution in communications.

In the U.K., The Times claims much of the credit for making all this happen. In 1979, the newspaper closed for a year because of disagreements with its printing unions. Already the microchip had made the printers' skills obsolete but they held a stranglehold on all publishers in Fleet Street (the traditional centre of newspaper production), clinging tenaciously to outmoded Victorian production methods and over-staffing.

In the Lancashire town of Warrington, in 1986, a courageous man called Eddy Shah tried to produce a local newspaper with new technology but without the union's costly restrictive practices. He failed but he went on to use that experience for the launch of a new national paper, Today (now closed), whose ownership was eventually transferred to press baron Rupert Murdoch's News International.

Bitter dispute

In 1985, News International, which owns The Times, moved to an £80 million purpose-built computerised printing plant in London's docklands and began producing the paper electronically. A bitter 13-month dispute followed but new technology — advocated and pioneered by The Times — won the day. It led to an exodus from Fleet Street as the U.K.'s national papers computerised their operations in modern premises.

On the Internet, the Interactive Times' World Wide

Web (www.the-times.co.uk) offers all the journal's regular news stories, features and pictures as well as those of the Sunday Times in a slightly different format. News stories are constantly updated and readers can fill in the crossword or operate the fast-search facility to find a specific topic. Already The Times has over 40,000 registered Internet subscribers and fresh readers are registering at 2,000 daily.

Conrad Black's Electronic Daily Telegraph (http://www.telegraph.co.uk) was the first U.K. broadsheet to make its debut on the Internet in 1994. It has 153,000 registered viewers throughout the world for the newspaper and a special weekend edition.

"It has enabled us to reach a new, younger, professional readership and target different audiences," says a Telegraph spokeswoman. "It has also generated revenue from advertising and we have plans to broaden

our activities on our web site. For instance we have started producing PC disks for children and there are many more ideas which will reach fruition in the next six months."

Net recruitment

The Guardian Online GO2 (http://www.guardian.co.uk) joined the Net in November 1995 and now has 10,000 registered subscribers. Its service is much more selective, transmitted every Thursday and devoted exclusively to science, technology, computerisation and — one of the paper's biggest earners — professional recruitment advertising.

Mr. Robin Hunt, of the Guardian's New Media Lab, says: "We are developing new ideas all the time and in the next few months we will be offering a number of different services which will have an affinity with our GO2 worldwide readers. It is encouraging because our Internet readership is increasing rapidly."

Simultaneous publishing

Electronic communication enables the Financial Times (FT) (http://www.usa.ft.com) to publish simultaneously in Frankfurt, Hong Kong, Los Angeles, Madrid, Stockholm and Tokyo. Its Internet edition carries the front page and a selection of news stories, features and pictures. With 150,000 registered subscribers, 40 per cent log on from the U.S. and 20 per cent from Asian countries.

FT assistant editor Paul Maidment says that the subscribers are largely professional men and women, high-fliers in business and finance. "We are in the process of redesigning our web site to provide a more tailored and innovative service," he adds. "The information superhighway is the future and that is the road anyone in the communications industry must travel."

"The Internet offers a surfeit of information as well as the cache of serendipity.

I was in New York recently and wanted to know what the cricket score was so I just tapped into the computer and got the latest result immediately."

It is not only the major U.K. nationals that offer electronic editions on the Net. The Daily Record and Sunday Mail (http://www.record-mail.co.uk) both provide Scottish national and international readers with news and views, and a number of other regional newspapers are considering setting up their own web sites.

The prestigious Economist (http://www.economist.com) is there as is the satirical political magazine, Private Eye (http://www.intervid.co.uk/intervid/eye/gateway.html). PA News (http://www.padd.press.net/), the U.K. news agency is online globally for paying subscribers while Commercial News Services (http://www.fou.uff.edu/comnews/webjoun.htm) offers a free selection of newspapers.

Computer gardening

The British Library (http://porico.bl.uk) can give you everything historic including the Magna Carta in close-up; the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew (http://www.rbgkew.org.uk/) provides detailed descriptions of trees, flowers and poisonous plants while the Science (http://www.nm.ac.uk/) and Natural History (http://www.nhm.ac.uk/) museums enable you to browse through archival knowledge unrivalled anywhere in the world.

There is undoubtedly more than enough information on the Net to satisfy anyone and it is still growing. As more and more people become computer literate, it will go on expanding creating a virtually limitless font of knowledge and news accessible by almost anyone with a few pieces of simple technology, along with the keyword: selectivity.

LPS Feature

For Finns, longest day may be journey into night

By Sara Henley
Reuters

HELSINKI — Midsummer approaches, and Finland is a nation preparing to party. But like many celebrations in this tough, empty country, the Finns' white-night madness may be edged with darkness.

Every year about 20 to 30 people are killed in the ritual celebrations with which Finns mark the year's longest day.

They fall off boats, set fire to their summer cottages, walk under trains, crash cars, or just fight. "Years of experience tell me things will be busy — we always put all our resources into play at midsummer," said Kari Kurki, senior constable of Helsinki boat police. Cold weather is his best hope for a relatively peaceful night.

To many Finns, midsummer deaths are completely normal.

"People just simply go out to party and enjoy the summer, drink too much and fall off the boat," said psychologist Pekka Saari. "There's nothing strange about that."

Not perhaps in Finland, or even in the Nordic area. Last year, a Swede was the most remarkable of the more than two dozen fatalities, jumping off a Finnish Baltic ferry to rescue the mobile phone he had lost overboard.

Alcohol is of course the most obvious demon that pilots midsummer partygoers to their death — the painfully-honest Finns make no secret of their fascination with the treacherous effects of strong spirits. But there is more to their midsummer madness than



Revellers celebrating Midsummer, the most festive holiday in Finland, watch as a bonfire is set alight (Reuters photo)

drink, or even the deep pagan roots which some Arctic people cherish.

Even in a modern, secular city like Helsinki, where people live for up to 10 months of the year in frozen gloom, the sun shining almost to midnight tends to twist normality. In the Arctic north of Finland, the sun

does not go down for 51 days.

"This brightness now," said journalist Kirsi-Marja Hayrinen, gesturing at the yellow light streaming over the horizon at 11 p.m., "it can be very painful. It's the story of Finland — so much sun after so much dark. So many extremes."

In summer the capital does not get properly dark, and people are woken by intense light hours before they have to be at work. In December the sun only rises after they have put in a good two hours.

But the contrasts go much further than the light (six hours a day in winter, 19 in

summer) or the temperatures (30 degrees Celsius in the Helsinki summer, minus 18 degrees Celsius on Christmas Eve).

As Mrs. Hayrinen notes, they are a key to Finnish culture.

The music of Jean Sibelius, probably the best-known Finn in history out-

side his native country, derives much of its power from a harmony of opposites in pieces which can evoke bewitching grace and beauty in darkness, and death.

A visitor to Helsinki at this time of year may very well find it paradise — hot, bright sun clean, clear

beaches lively café terraces birds of species long gone from most capitals and plants which seem to grow as you watch.

"Every summer is a terrible roulette whose stakes are measured in depressions and suicides," wrote Ilkka Malmberg, journalist at leading daily Helsingin Sanomat, referring to the need to "charge up" on warmth and sun to survive the winter.

Finland has one of the highest suicide rates in Europe, mainly for men, at 45 per 100,000 — in the notably depressed year of 1993. Only in places like Russia and Hungary is it higher.

Finland is closer to the Slavic countries than to Scandinavia.

Finns soprano Karita Mattila was recently quoted as saying, "Winter is cold and summer is short — one is for drinking and sleeping, the other for living and making love."

In Finland — where the brief hours of sun even in winter can be so bright they hurt your eyes — it seems entirely logical to link opposites, like a steamy winter sauna followed by a roll in the snow.

"The Finns have a highly developed sense of the absurd," says Mrs. Hayrinen. The sublime and ridiculous meet here easily.

Take the controlled, breathy passion of the Argentinian tango, which has become an essential vehicle for this chilly Nordic people to give vent to their suppressed ardour.

Tango — sung and danced strictly the Finnish way, with more rigid melancholy than the flamboyant, stylised original —

is a national art. No Finnish summer would be complete without fevered tango festivals, up and down the country.

To an outsider the Finnish dancers may seem merely to stumble and sweat. "All these feelings we cannot say, cannot show, they are locked in the tango," says Mrs. Hayrinen.

Or take a recent television drama, when a man proposed marriage to a woman by asking: "Can I interest you in lying in our family grave?"

Helsinki with its nightclubs actually displays much of the posur sophistication of nineties city life. But for many Finns, true nirvana is the forest cabin retreat with no electricity or running water.

Sociologists explain Finns' need to feel "close to the land" by pointing out that while city infrastructure has been in place since the early 1900s, the parents of many city dwellers were born and raised in the remotest forest settlements.

So the most authentic midsummer festivities will involve lighting bonfires in the light, taking a sticky sauna and consuming barbecued sausages and beer in the open air by a lake. It may not sound very special, but to a Finn, it is.

"We Finns tend to experience life as something unavoidable that falls on top of us," said Juha Silta, historian at the University of Helsinki.

For a few Finns, midsummer will be a relatively painless way to fall out of life — switching without memory from the year's longest day into life's longest night.

Cafés and bombings are a way of life in Mostar

By Davor Huić
Reuters

MOSTAR, Bosnia — At 4 a.m., three days before elections in the tough Bosnian city of Mostar, a bomb wrecked the café San Remo in the centre of town.

The next morning its owner — a 29-year-old rocker named Goran with a ponytail and three earrings in one ear — was shovelling out broken glass and pieces of furniture.

"This was part of the election campaign: 'If you are not with us, we enlarge your café,'" he said with wry resignation. Goran wouldn't say exactly why his café was blown up.

Was it because he is a Serb in Croat-run Mostar? Or had he not paid "protection money"

to powerful local gangsters on time? Had he been seen drinking with friends in a café in the Muslim-controlled east side of town?

Blowing up businesses is a common occurrence in Mostar, southern Bosnia's biggest city and a hotbed of ethnic hatred — and downright lawlessness — in the ex-Yugoslav republic.

Attacks on property scarcely paused for the European Union-sponsored June 30 elections, swept by Muslim and Croat nationalists in their respective parts of town.

Two days after the San Remo bombing, "unknown individuals" blew up a small grocery on the main boulevard. That night, a nearby fast food kiosk just vanished, prompting lively debate as to how big a truck was

needed to pull off the theft.

Mostar is full of tall, muscular young men with marine-style haircuts and short tempers who drive remodelled cars, some possibly stolen, in apparent search of trouble.

Many of them are frustrated and unemployed, some suffering from "Vietnam syndrome" after years of fighting. Virtually all carry guns or have access to assault weapons and explosives.

An ordinary quarrel in a café or bar, or a car accident, can quickly spiral into bloodshed and murder.

Goran's café was one of more than 200 which have opened in the Croat-held west of Mostar since the 1994 end of the Croat-Muslim war that devastated the ancient Balkan city.

Cafés, restaurants and fast food kiosks, small groceries and boutiques seem to be the only prospective legitimate business around in the wake of war.

"This is the only sort of business you can have in Mostar. There's no other way to make money unless you go into organised crime," said Maco, a 33-year-old west Mostar café owner.

For the avalanche of youth hangouts, a catchy name is key to attracting custom. Some names of cafés and restaurants are quite ordinary like café Grand, Leonardo, Queen or Willy.

Some are a bit more inventive — Popeye, Friendly Gapa, A Little Shug, or La Cage. Topping the list of most bizarre names are the Santa

Buregdzinica (local meat pie parlor) and the Café Batida da Coco.

On the Muslim-held east side there are almost as many watering holes with equally quasi-westernised names: Babylon, Malindi, Belezza and Remmy are the typical ones.

"...the bitter humour so characteristic of Mostar and the occasional communication between old friends and neighbours who turned into mortal ethnic enemies in war only to be told by the EU to learn to live together again."

One popular west-side café recently changed its name after complaints that joking about serious things like war crimes can only worsen Mostar's already dubious image. The café Harley used to

be "the Hague" — a self-conscious reference to the seat of the international tribunal on war crimes in the former Yugoslavia.

Eighteen Bosnian Croats have been indicted by the tribunal for attacks on Muslim civilians. Most of the Croats who have been indicted

shrine town of Medjugorje.

But war crimes suspects don't feel totally safe in Mostar any more after Croatia, patron of Bosnian Croats, handed over one suspect to the tribunal in April and arrested another in Zagreb last month.

Some café owners prefer humour to glamour, but a humour of a kind that borders on tastelessness.

The café, Ciao in the west was once owned by young Muslim business-

man Safet Orucovic. During the Muslim-Croat war, he was expelled to the east side and all his property confiscated.

Mr. Orucovic is now mayor of east Mostar.

The new owners retained the café's old name — under the circumstances a gesture of defiance and clear message to its former owner: "Bye bye Safet, and don't come back."

Asked how he felt about it, Mr. Orucovic said: "I don't drink there any more."

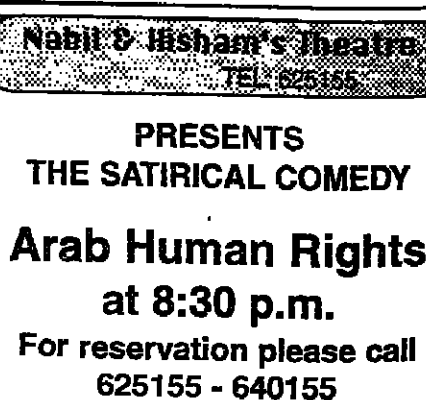
His reply revealed the bitter humour so characteristic of Mostar and the occasional communication between old friends and neighbours who turned into mortal ethnic enemies in war only to be told by the EU to learn to live together again.

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SHAME!
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Gunnell cleared to Atlanta Games

LONDON (R) — Britain's Olympic 400 metres hurdles champion Sally Gunnell has been told she should be able to compete in this month's Atlanta Olympics despite breaking down at the Lausanne Grand Prix Wednesday night.

A scan on Gunnell's left foot in Lausanne on Thursday revealed an inflamed heel but no bone damage.

Swiss specialist Roland Biedert said Gunnell should rest for a week and then resume training.

"Sally had a good chance of competing in Atlanta," he said. "The next week will show how it turns out."

Ravanelli swipes at Juventus

MILAN (AFP) — Fabrizio Ravanelli vented his bitterness Friday at being sold by Juventus to English Premiership side Middlesbrough in one of the biggest transfer deals in English football.

Ravanelli moved for seven million pounds (\$10.5 million) to the Premiership club and is expected to earn 750,000 pounds a year for four seasons.

But there was no mistaking the bitterness at being sold after four years, just when he was hoping to take over as team captain from Chelsea-bound strike partner Gianluca Vialli.

"Juventus have sold me, and I feel sorry for the fans, my teammates and for the club. For a Juventus man like myself, it's not easy to say goodbye to the fans," the 27-year-old Euro '96 failure said.

"I've suffered so much for the Juventus jersey, I've worked hard, but unfortunately I have to accept they no longer need me. I feel like someone who's been offloaded, that I've become one player too many, even though I'm in the national team."

He went on: "It's true I've received a great deal, but I've given even more. I thought I was one of the key players in the team, but instead, here I am on the transfer market and it's all over."

"Now, I'm expecting a new experience. Bryan Robson and Keith Lamb both struck me as kind and intelligent, and after hearing their plans for a top-level team I'd like to forget the past."

"But it won't be easy. In England, I'll meet Vialli and there will be a great duel when Chelsea meet Middlesbrough."

The issue of the Juventus captaincy also rankled the silver-haired striker, who has scored 73 goals for the European champions — including their goal in the European Cup final against Ajax, which they won on penalties.

"I never thought something like this could happen," he said.

"When Gianluca said he was going to England to join Ruud Gullit I really thought Juventus were going to make me captain. It just shows I really hadn't understood anything."

Makinen leads Argentine Rally

CORDOBA, Argentina (R) — Finn-Tommi Makinen has strengthened his grip on the World Rally Championship, taking a useful 26 second lead on the first day of the fifth round, the Rally of Argentina.

"Everything has been alright. I am surprised to be so much in the lead — and we can accelerate a bit more," said Makinen, whose Mitsubishi was delayed only slightly by a steering problem.

Swede Kenneth Eriksson is in second place in the top Subaru after a well-paced drive.

"We will not give up. We will chase Tommi all the way," he said.

Italian Piero Liati moved into a solid third place, well aware that his role is to finish and score points to protect Subaru's lead in the Manufacturers' World Championship.

Carlos Sainz of Spain fought back after breaking one of the output shafts, but power steering failure during the last four stages of the day has all but wrecked his chances of winning.

Earlier, world champion Colin McRae rolled his Subaru during the sixth of the rally's 28 stages — minutes after mechanics had replaced a vital part of the chassis damaged when he hit a rock earlier in the day. The Scot escaped unhurt, but is out of the event.

Crews face another two days and 900 kilometres of hard driving in the hills around Cordoba before the finish on Saturday afternoon.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan with members of the Kingdom's national taekwondo teams which recently took part in the Asian and Junior World Championships (Petra photo)

Prince Hassan meets national taekwondo teams

Jordan takes 2nd place in Junior World Championship

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday stressed the importance of continued training to attain a competitive standard and secure advanced standings in international sports championships.

"It undoubtedly makes one feel proud when Jordan takes an advanced standing at the international level and among countries with more experience in such sports," said the Crown Prince.

The Prince's statement came at a meeting with the Kingdom's national taekwondo teams which recently took part in the Asian and Junior World Championships.

Jordan's youth team earned second place among 55 countries in the Junior World Championship in Barcelona. Korea took first place while the U.S. was third.

Jordan's Yaser Abu Shu'ayb and Ibrahim Aql took two silver medals in the championship.

On the other hand, the Kingdom's men's team finished sixth among 13 countries at the Asian Championship.

Jordan Taekwondo Federation (JTF) Chairman Marwan Abdallat pointed out that Jordan's achievements in this sport were attributed to perseverance, training and Prince Hassan's continued support.

Mr. Abdallat said that the JTF had been given a preliminary approval to stage the next Junior World Championship in Amman.

Armstrong abandons Tour de France

AIX-LES-BAINS, France (AFP) — Lance Armstrong, the 1994 world road race champion, abandoned the Tour de France during the sixth stage Friday.

Armstrong, involved in a fight with Frenchman Gilles Bouvard on Thursday's fifth stage, abandoned complaining of sickness.

The 24-year-old American, twice a stage winner, was riding in his final tour for Motorola, who are withdrawing their sponsorship at the end of the season.

Eddy Seigneur, the 1995 French champion, also called it a day after 60 km — his second successive abandonment from the Tour.

The peloton, cycling in very difficult weather conditions, also lost Italian Davide Bramati, the third member of the "Panaria" team to abandon since Saturday, and another Frenchman Frederic Pontier, teammate of Cyril Saugrain winner of Wednesday's fourth stage.

Earlier Italian Gian Matteo Fagnini, teammate of sprint king Mario Cipollini, had not started the stage because of a broken collarbone and Alexander Gonchenko of Russia had also failed to start.

Their replacements left 176 of the original 198 starters still in the Tour.

Greece determined to host 2004 Olympics

ATHENS (R) — Greece plans to invest billions of dollars in infrastructure projects to back its bid for the 2004 Olympic Games, instead of relying on its historical role as the source of the Games to lay claim to the event.

"Our file for the bid is almost ready. At this point we must prove that Athens is capable of hosting the Olympics, that it has the people and infrastructure, and leave everything else aside," Yanna Angelopoulou, head of Athens' bidding committee told reporters.

Greece fought hard to stage the centennial Olympics this year, saying it had a special right as the country where the ancient Games originated and where they were revived.

But the International Olympic Committee voted down the bid because of Greece's poor infrastructure and a lack of confidence that Athens could meet the demands of the giant sports festival.

Greece had vowed never to bid for the games again and to shun the Atlanta centennial celebrations but its anger has eased and Athens wants the 2004 Olympics.

"The attitude that the Games belong to us by right has been abandoned," Angelopoulou said. "I believe we have better chances than last time because a number of major works are either completed or under way."

Work on a new \$2.5 billion Athens international airport and \$2.1 billion Athens subway system is scheduled to be completed by the year 2001 and the state phone company OTE has moved forward to digitalise most of its network.

Athens already has an 80,000-seat Olympic stadium.

Japanese team holds talks with Maradona

TOKYO (R) — A Japanese soccer team said Friday that it is holding talks with former Argentine captain Diego Maradona, but has not signed a contract and is doubtful he can get a Japanese visa because of a drug arrest.

A spokesman for Japan Football League side Tosu Futures said Friday that the team wants to sign the 35-year-old midfielder if Tokyo authorities will grant him a visa.

"We would definitely think about signing him if he expressed interest in coming to Japan," team spokesman Keizo Kato said by telephone from Saga in Kyushu, Japan's southernmost main island.

Mr. Abdallat said that the JTF had been given a preliminary approval to stage the next Junior World Championship in Amman.

Japanese authorities barred Maradona, currently with Argentine side Boca Juniors, from playing in a warm-up match in Japan before the 1994 World Cup finals because of cases pending involving the use of cocaine.

Maradona's manager Guillermo Coppola was quoted by Argentina's state-owned Telam news agency as saying Thursday that the player was set to sign a \$20 million two-year contract with a Japanese club within the next few days. The Japanese club was not named.

A spokeswoman for the JFL, regarded as a "second division" of Japan's four-year-old professional JLeague, said no other team had reported signing Maradona.

If he is granted a visa, Maradona would join the club in August, the report said.

Maradona's younger brother, Hugo, plays for Avispa Fukuoka in JLeague.

Japan's policy of denying visas to individuals with records of arrests for drugs offences has prevented some top foreign rock musicians from touring the country.

Ronaldo's price tag set at \$20m

ROTTERDAM (R) — Former European champions PSV Eindhoven have put a price tag of \$20 million on their young Brazilian striker Ronaldo, Dutch newspapers said Friday.

Ronaldo, who is reported to have said he would be interested in playing for Spanish club Barcelona, is under contract to the Dutch Cup holders until July 1998.

"Ronaldo still has a contract but everybody has a price," PSV treasurer Harry Van Raay was quoted as saying.

Ronaldo, 19, is currently with the Brazilian national team preparing for the Olympic Games in Atlanta.

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Government of Jordan

Invitation for Expression of Interest

Jordan Investment Corporation (JIC) and Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centers Corporation are planning to establish (set-up) a Jordanian fair under the name "Jordan International Fair". The main objective for establishing this Fair is to provide facilities to accommodate local, regional and international exhibitions that take place in Jordan. In addition facilities would be provided for delivering lectures, conducting meetings...etc.

The site for the Fair has been chosen 10 km South-West of Amman, close to the highway leading to Queen Alia International Airport. The 230,000 sq.m. site is already provided with the required infrastructure (water, electricity, roads and telephone lines). It is proposed that the Fair facilities would include the following:

- * Exhibition Halls.
- * Meeting Rooms.
- * Storage Rooms.
- * Fast Food Restaurants.
- * Rest Rooms.
- * Car Parking.

This project is based on a Build, Own and Operate or Build, own and transfer approach. As such, companies with experience in setting-up, holding and operating similar ventures are cordially invited to submit their expressions of interest, along with a profile of the company's experience in similar projects, not later than July 30, 1996 to:

Eng. M. Batayneh
Director General
Jordan Investment Corporation
P.O. Box 3294
Amman-Jordan
Fax. No. 962 6 816915

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Turkish press accuses coalition of begging, borrowing, buying votes

ANKARA (AFP) — Members of Turkey's unlikely coalition and its opposition are offering huge bribes to undecided deputies in a desperate bid to influence Monday's confidence vote, the Turkish press reported.

Necmettin Erbakan, leader of the pro-Islamic Welfare Party, became the new Turkish prime minister last week after forming a partnership with former premier Tansu Ciller, a conservative.

But the alliance, which sparked outrage among some of Ciller's True Path deputies, will fail unless it obtains a vote of confidence from parliament.

Turkish newspapers reported that the coalition and its opponents were engaged in a veritable auction to win over deputies in the days leading up to the vote, offering bribes ranging from one million to 35 million dollars.

The result may hang on a few votes from one of the smallest parties in parliament, the Islamic Nationalist Grand Union (BBP).

With only seven seats, the Grand Union was aware enough of its influence to demand a role in the coalition in exchange for its support.

Ms. Ciller and Mr. Erbakan have accepted these conditions, the daily Yeni Yuzil newspaper reported, offering the Grand Union two ministerial posts if it votes in favor of the coalition.

The Grand Union, born in 1992 of a split in the extreme-right Nationalist Action Party, entered parliament thanks to an electoral accord with the Motherland Party.

Its leader, Muhsin Yazicioglu, promised its support to the Welfare Party when Mr. Erbakan began his bid for a coalition.

But Yazicioglu objects to the alliance because it apparently cancels out corruption charges against Ms. Ciller. The Welfare Party launched a parliamentary inquiry in June against Ms. Ciller, accusing her of irregularities and corruption when she was prime minister between June 1993 and March 1996.

Since Ms. Ciller began negotiating with Mr. Erbakan on June 13, eight True Path deputies have resigned.

Several others have said they will deny a confidence vote to the coalition because

Ms. Ciller betrayed her party and Turkey's "secular state" for personal gain. Modern Turkey, founded on secular, pro-Western policies in 1923, now has its first Islamic leader.

With the resignations the True Path Party has fallen from second to third place in parliament, behind the Welfare Party, which has 158 seats, and the centre-right Motherland Party of Mesut Yilmaz, with 131 seats.

But this week two deputies defected from other parties to support Ms. Ciller. One came from the Motherland Party, the other from Bulent Ecevit's Nationalist Democratic Left Party.

Ms. Ciller said Thursday that deputies may continue to switch alliances prior to the vote.

To win the confidence vote, the government needs an absolute majority among deputies present on Monday.

The Yeni Yuzil and Sabah newspapers, which have published daily tables predicting the results, anticipate that the coalition will scrape through with a confidence vote.



PALESTINIAN ARGUES WITH BORDER POLICEMAN IN JERUSALEM: A Palestinian man (left) argues with an Israeli border policeman during an identity check inside the Old City Friday. The man complained about having to produce his documents for the policeman shortly after being searched by another police patrol further inside the Old City's Arab market (Reuters photo)

Hebron at boiling point, says mayor

HEBRON, West Bank (AFP) — Hebron is at boiling point because of the Israeli government's delay in pulling troops out of the West Bank town, Mayor Mustafa Natshe said Friday.

"The situation is becoming increasingly difficult to control," Mr. Natshe told AFP. "The patience of inhabitants is at breaking point."

Palestinian youths hurled empty bottles at an Israeli army patrol in the town Friday in a clash reminiscent

of the intifada or uprising against Israeli occupation from 1987 to 1994.

A soldier was slightly wounded and the army briefly detained a nine-year-old boy.

"The situation is tense," said Oyvino Tuvdes, one of the Norwegian observers sent to monitor Hebron ahead of an Israeli withdrawal.

Hebron, where 400 militant Jewish settlers live among 120,000 Palestinians, is the only

major West Bank town still under Israeli occupation.

Under the Israeli-Palestinian autonomy agreements, the Jewish state was to pull its troops out of four-fifths of the town by March 28, but former Prime Minister Shimon Peres postponed the pullback after a wave of Islamic suicide bombings in Israel.

His rightwing successor, Benjamin Netanyahu, says he is still studying the issue. Palestinian activists distributed a series of leaflets

last week calling on Arabs to make next Tuesday "the start of a new intifada" if Mr. Netanyahu does not take a decision beforehand.

The Israeli leader is meeting U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington the same day.

Inhabitants, who are also hit by an Israeli closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, complain that the army has increased its presence in the past two weeks.

Syria: Netanyahu 'exploiting' U.S. elections

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria said on Friday Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was taking advantage of the upcoming U.S. elections to press President Bill Clinton into adopting positions that serve Israel's hardline policies.

The official Al Thawra newspaper urged the Clinton administration not to submit to pressure and fears of losing Jewish voters in the November presidential election and try to force Mr. Netanyahu to accept trading land for peace.

The newly elected Mr. Netanyahu is preparing for his first visit to the United

States as prime minister next week to discuss ties and the Middle East peace talks.

"The ugly exploitation of the American presidential elections and the attempts to blackmail the American position to the extreme to serve the Israeli interests and its aggressive and expansionist policy...should not force, under any circumstances, the (U.S.) administration...to submit to the pressures of the Zionist lobby," Al Thawra said.

It said Washington, which renewed its commitment to the land-for-peace policy, should not "fall short of adopting the proper stand

that sponsors...putting the peace process back on the correct track."

"The new Israeli defiance which exceeded all limits in extremism and obstinacy, could not have been so flagrant if the U.S. stand was not so loose and supportive and also if the U.S. had taken a decisive position that would match its role as a sponsor of the peace," Al Thawra said.

Addressing Israel's security concerns, Mr. Netanyahu promised to maintain sovereignty over the Golan Heights, captured from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war, and declared his opposition to giving up land for peace.

Al Thawra said Mr. Netanyahu's policies "was an attempt to impose the law of the jungle and destroy the peace process completely in an unprecedented way in history by... seeking to cancel the Arab presence...which would lead to explosions, tension and wars."

Syrian-Israeli peace talks, which opened in 1991, are deadlocked over the Golan, security arrangements and peace-time ties.

"We assure again that peace could no longer bear manoeuvres and it is impossible to be reached if the land was not returned fully to its owners," Al Thawra said.

France freezes former Qatari emir's assets

PARIS (R) — France has frozen the assets of the former emir of Qatar, ousted by his son last year in a bloodless coup, at the request of the government in Doha, presidential spokeswoman Catherine Colonna said on Thursday.

Ms. Colonna told reporters that Paris had received a request for legal assistance from the Qatari government and had passed it on to the French justice authorities.

"It has been carried out as far as I am aware. That is a matter for the justice authorities," she said. She said she did not know how much money or property was involved.

President Jacques Chirac is due to pay a three-hour official visit to Qatar, a major purchaser of French arms, next Monday.

Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani ousted his father while the old emir was on holiday in Switzerland in June 1995.

The former emir, Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani, who was vowed to recapture the throne, left the United Arab Emirates for London last week.

There have been persistent reports that a former French security official, who now runs a private security firm, has been working for Sheikh Khalifa, causing some embarrassment for Paris, diplomats said.

Israeli navy intercepts swimmer near Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The Israeli navy has intercepted a man who tried to swim across the Egyptian border off the Gaza Strip, a military spokesman said on Thursday. The spokesman, declining to identify the man or disclose his destination, said he was detained late at night on June 26 by an Israeli coastal patrol boat in the Mediterranean and was still being interrogated. Under its 1993 peace deal with the PLO, the Israeli navy patrols off Gaza as part of Israel's overall control of the international borders of the Palestinian self-rule area.



China revives 'panda diplomacy'

BEIJING (R) — China will lend a pair of its closely guarded and sex-shy giant pandas to the U.S. San Diego Zoo for a breeding research programme, the Xinhua News Agency said Thursday. Beijing had approved an application by the China Wildlife Conservation Association to send the pair on a long-term reproduction research programme to the United States, Xinhua said. China has also agreed to a request from the United States to allow the pandas to visit Atlanta for three months on their way to San Diego, Xinhua said. It was not yet clear whether the giant pandas would arrive in Atlanta in time for the summer Olympic Games. International cooperation in breeding research on endangered species in China, including the giant panda, was of great significance, Xinhua quoted experts as saying.

Pants a hot issue as Hong Kong skirts with equality

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong's newly-commissioned anti-discrimination watchdog has raised hackles in the British colony by drafting a proposal which would allow employers to force female staff to wear skirts to work. The South China Morning Post newspaper said Friday drafters of a new equal opportunities commission code argue their reasoning is simple — men can only wear trousers to work. Just weeks after an outcry which forced a local securities house to drop a rule fining women for wearing trousers to the office, a 37-page draft obtained by the newspaper concluded employers had the right to control the personal appearance of employees. "For example, a male food store assistant could be justifiably dismissed due to the length of his hair if this broke rules for the appearance of male staff," the paper quoted the draft as saying. "Similarly, female employees of a bookshop who are not allowed to wear trousers when working with the public have no legal basis to object... because men do not have the choice of wearing trousers or a skirt."

But he said he was not sure that the law of the jungle and destroy the peace process completely in an unprecedented way in history by... seeking to cancel the Arab presence...which would lead to explosions, tension and wars."

Syrian-Israeli peace talks, which opened in 1991, are deadlocked over the Golan, security arrangements and peace-time ties.

"We assure again that peace could no longer bear manoeuvres and it is impossible to be reached if the land was not returned fully to its owners," Al Thawra said.

Dad to sue over coma birth of his son

LONDON (R) — The father of a baby boy who was born while his mother was in a coma said he is planning to sue a British hospital because it ignored his wishes to let his girlfriend die with dignity. Doctors at Southampton General Hospital in southern England did not follow the instructions of Steven Davies who wanted them to switch off the life support of Sarah Davies after she lapsed into a coma with a blood clot on the brain when she was six months pregnant. Instead they followed the directions of her parents, and legal guardians, who said she should be kept alive to give her unborn baby a greater chance of survival. Maps, 22, gave birth to her son Jack, born by caesarean section, six months ago. She died four days later without regaining consciousness. "I love Jack more and more each day but I can never forget how and why he is here. I want to take the hospital to court over the moral issue, not for compensation," Mr. Davies told the Daily Mail newspaper. "It is not that I wanted to see the baby dead, but I didn't want Sarah kept alive in that awful, degrading way."

Although Davies has legal custody of the child, the decision on whether or not his girlfriend should have been kept alive was up to her parents.

Mr. Davies said he was not sure that the law of the jungle and destroy the peace process completely in an unprecedented way in history by... seeking to cancel the Arab presence...which would lead to explosions, tension and wars."

Syrian-Israeli peace talks, which opened in 1991, are deadlocked over the Golan, security arrangements and peace-time ties.

"We assure again that peace could no longer bear manoeuvres and it is impossible to be reached if the land was not returned fully to its owners," Al Thawra said.

There have been persistent reports that a former French security official, who now runs a private security firm, has been working for Sheikh Khalifa, causing some embarrassment for Paris, diplomats said.

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Another nanny steps forward to add to Netanyahu's woes

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A second nanny who worked for the Netanyahu family came forward to tell her story on Friday as the prime minister's wife waded in to the "Nannygate" row gripping Israel for the past week.

Heidi Ben Yair, a 22-year-old student, told the daily Yediot Aharanot of her "nightmare" at the prime ministerial home, five days after the sacking of family nanny Tanya Shaw sparked an unprecedented press frenzy here.

"I worked a week for Mrs. Sarah Netanyahu. It was a nightmare. She treated me very badly and was obsessed by cleanliness," Ms. Ben Yair said. "She shouted all the time and was never satisfied. She screamed if I touched her children without cleaning my hands first."

"Nannygate," as it is known here, has hogged the front pages since Ms. Shaw first accused the Netanyahu family on Monday of sacking her for letting a pan of soup boil over.

Sarah Netanyahu, who emerges as the chief villain in both nannies' stories, hit back Friday claiming she is the victim of a hate campaign.

"Before, the press attacked my husband and now it has launched a hate campaign against me. How can people seriously believe I don't love my children and I kiss them only in front of the cameras?" she told the Yediot Aharanot in a two-page interview.

"How can you give credit to malicious gossip put about by a bitter nanny?"

She painted a happy picture of their family life with sons Yair, four, and Avner, 18 months, contrary to the image of distant parents painted by the two nannies. "My husband tries to be with our two sons. We like to play with them in the garden and we go out together," she said. Sarah Netanyahu, 37, a former air stewardess, has just completed a masters degree in child psychology at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

"Bibi" Netanyahu, Israel's youngest prime minister and its most American in style, gave the press unprecedented access to his private life both before and after his May 29 election, which now appears to be back-firing.

Sudan government dismissive of recent rebel operations

KHARTOUM (R) — The Sudanese government has dismissed as futile recent operations by Sudanese opposition forces close to the Eritrean border.

Vice-President George Kogor Arop told a public meeting in the area on Thursday that the opposition would never succeed and Sudan knew how to fight off any attacks from Eritrea.

"They will never achieve their goal of coming to power. No quarter abroad is capable of imposing its will on the Sudanese people even if it employs all neighbouring countries," said police Major-General Arop, quoted in the independent newspaper Al Rai Al Akhar on Friday.

The Eritrean government

lets Sudanese rebels train inside its territory and Sudan says some of the rebels have crossed the border to plant landmines.

Two Sudanese soldiers were killed and three injured when a landmine blew up their vehicle in Kassala state last Saturday.

Maj.-Gen. Arop, speaking in Kassala state, said: "The Sudanese people are capable of replying to any attacks whatever the source... whether they come from the south or the east."

"Sudan cannot be the enemy of the Eritrean people — the Sudan that struggled with the Eritrean people for the whole of 30 years until (Eritrean) independence," the independent newspaper Akhbar Al Youm quoted him as saying.

'U.S. freezing of Iranian assets a breach of trust'

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on Friday accused the United States of a "breach of trust" over the 16-year freeze of Iranian assets and military equipment.

"This historic crime committed by the United States against Iran will end up being judged and condemned," said the Iranian head of state in a speech at Tehran University before weekly prayers.

He said "no argument can explain this injustice and this abuse of trust by the

United States against our country."

The U.S. government seized all Iranian assets in the United States in 1980 after the seizure of the U.S. embassy in Tehran which followed the Islamic revolution in 1979. It also held onto military equipment that had been ordered, was undergoing repairs or was being tested at the time. The two countries have not had diplomatic ties since 1980.

Iran estimates the total value of frozen assets at \$10 billion.

Mr. Rafsanjani, speaking

on the anniversary of the U.S. decision, said Washington was still carrying on its policy of pressuring Iran, but added that "fortunately this policy has failed because the close partners of the United States are not ready to follow it."

On numerous occasions Tehran has called on Washington to unfreeze its assets as a first goodwill step on the road to the normalisation of relations between the two countries.

The issue of the frozen assets is now in the hands of an international tribunal at the Hague.

The United States has imposed a total economic and commercial embargo on Iran since June 1995 and is trying to convince its Western partners to break off all commercial relations with the Islamic state.

But many European countries have preferred to carry on a "critical dialogue" with Tehran rather than end all ties, a move which has angered Washington.

Iran is regularly accused by the White House of instigating and supporting terrorism around the world.

Peres: New government's policies threaten Middle East stability

TEL AVIV (AP) — If Israel's new right-wing government persists in its refusal to withdraw from the Golan Heights, instability in the Middle East will increase, former Prime Minister Shimon Peres said in an interview published Friday.

"Our relations with Syria will deteriorate... Syria will put pressure on the entire Arab World and will pull Egyptian policy more over to its side," Mr. Peres told the newspaper Yediot Aharanot.

"There will be major problems in Lebanon and Syria will also put pressure on the Palestinians. The Palestinian Authority is a partner in peace, but under it there is a

terrorist group that does not obey it and is nourished by the opposition to the peace process."

Asked if he foresaw a new Middle East war, Mr. Peres said terrorism and non-conventional weapons pose a greater threat.

"Damage can be caused without a war," he said. "We have seen what a few suicide bombers and a network of ground-to-ground missiles can do."

Mr. Peres was defeated by Benjamin Netanyahu by less than 1 per cent of the vote in Israel's May 29 election, seen by many as a referendum on peace. Mr. Netanyahu

promised to slow down the pace of peace and put more emphasis on security.

Mr. Peres maintained that the Islamic militant group Hamas cost him the election by carrying out four suicide bomb attacks in which 59 victims were killed. The campaign by Mr. Netanyahu's Likud Party capitalised on the fear spread by those attacks.

"The hardest blow was the four terrorist attacks, and in the wake of them the fear that the Likud tried to spread," Mr. Peres said. "Don't forget that before the attacks I had a 16 per cent lead."

"There is no doubt that the results of the election are a

victory for the Hamas and the Hizbollah," he said, referring to the Iranian-backed Hizbollah militants fighting Israel in southern Lebanon.

Mr. Peres also criticised the interference of ultra-orthodox rabbis in the election campaign.

"With all due respect to rabbis, I'm not sure that rabbis should be telling us exactly what to do in the nuclear era," he said.

But Mr. Peres said he was sure Israelis want peace. "The people want peace, but the vast majority don't want to pay the price of peace," he said. "People are afraid to leave the wheelchair."

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King, Arafat meet in Jordan

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